have been approved so far for drought relief as per details given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

	Central assistance sought by the State Government	Ceiling of expenditure approved
1st Memorandum	67.60	10·70
2nd Memorandum	162.88 (Including Rs. 75·99 crores for 1987-88)	18·28 (Including Rs. 6 28 crores for 1987-88)

(c) In response to memorandum received in March, 1986 from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for relief measures in the areas affected by hailstorm during February, 1986, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 2.29 crores was approved on 13-6-86. No Central assistance has been approved for hailstorms during the years 1984-85 and 1985-86. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has now submitted a memorandum in February, 1987 seeking Central assistance in the wake of hailstorms which occurred in December, 1986 and January, 1987.

House sites for low and middle income group

2834. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 50 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1987 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to provide house sites to low and middle income groups; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that due to the rise in the land price for house sites, the small and middle income groups are not able to purchase house sites at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Housing is a State subject and social housing schemes meant for various categories including low and middle income groups are formulated and implemented by the State Governments as per Plan priorities and their requirements.

(b) There has been an increase in the land prices during the past few years. The State Housing Agencies, however, have special housing schemes at affordable prices for low income and middle income groups.

Conversion of Girls to Devdasis in Karnataka

2835. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report that appeared in the Times of India of 16th February, 1987 to the effect that one thousand girls have been converted to 'devdasis' in Karnataka despite the Anti-Devdasi Act;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have asked the Karnataka Government to submit a report on this account; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected from the State Government of Karnataka.